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## PRESS // NEWS

### GIVE WAY TO BUSES. IT'S NOT COURTESY, IT'S THE LAW

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Sunshine Coast Regional Council has an ambitious and admirable vision to be one of, or perhaps the Australia's first 'sustainable region'. One of the most important aspects to any regional sustainability strategy is public transport.

If the Sunshine Coast is serious about sustainability we need to get serious about improving our poor mode-share split (currently around 1.5% of trips), accept that a reliable public transport timetable is essential, and get serious about public transport priority on our roads.

One of the biggest issues our network faces at present is late-running. Late-running buses is the greatest frustration of our passengers and our drivers and is unfortunately largely out of our control. Late-running can be attributed to a number of factors including, road construction, heavy passenger loadings etc. but is predominantly due to motorists who are in a hurry and refuse to give-way to buses leaving stops and trying to enter general traffic flow.

**The public should understand that it is against the law to not give-way to buses and this offence attracts a fine of \$120 and 3 demerit points. We have just adding stickers to the back of our vehicles to highlight this issue to motorists and are seeking support from Queensland Police to monitor this issue closely.**

#### ***Section 77 of the Transport Operations Regulations states:***

- (1) A driver driving on a length of road in a built-up area where the speed limit applying to the driver is not more than 70km/h, in the left lane or left line of traffic, or in a bicycle lane on the far left side of the road, must give way to a bus in front of the driver if –
  - a) the bus has stopped, or is moving slowly, at the far left side of the road or in a bus-stop bay; and
  - b) the bus displays a give way to buses sign and the right direction indicator lights of the bus are operating; and
  - c) the bus is about to enter or proceed in the lane or line of traffic in which the driver is driving.

Sunbus asks motorists to do the right thing by giving way to buses who are indicating to enter traffic. Not only are they doing the right thing by the community in terms of working towards sustainability, but they are helping up to 50 people per bus get to their destination on time, and are making the day in the life of a driver a much more pleasant experience.

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